

## O'DONNELL'S OWN STORY.

The Slayer of Carey Explains How and Why He Did It.

Denying Emphatically That He Was Sent to Do It.

The Numerous Opportunities He Had for Putting Him Out of the Way Quietly if He Had Wanted.

The Quarrel, the Life and Death Struggle, and Its Bloody Result.

An interview with O'Donnell, the slayer of Carey, the informer, published in the Dublin Freeman recently, gives the following clear statement of the facts of the tragedy and the events which led up to it. O'Donnell is described by the interviewer as a simple and straightforward man of great intelligence for one unable to read or write. He appears to have a slight fear of being hanged, but is much excited at the idea that he was put up to do the shooting by anyone. He says that young Carey has deliberately invented in his evidence the most important points of his evidence. "That boy is as cunning as a cat," he says, "and too old and too deep for his years." He declares that after they had looked at each other in the street, he knew nothing about Carey's identity, "no more than that he was a man."

"Didn't you hear him talk about in Ireland?"

"Oh, a hundred times, and I said about him what everyone else was saying. I heard so much about him that I knew the Phoenix park affair was only a small part of the murder he did or had a hand in, and I used to say hanging would be too good for him."

"It was no idea about him which carried you to South Africa?"

"That can be proved, for I had told my friends soon after I came to Ireland this year I would give up America and go to the Cape or Australia. I would not go in the same ship with Carey for a hundred thousand dollars. Sure if I knew of it I would expect the ship to sink."

"Did you have no suspicions on the voyage out?"

"No, the thought of his being Carey never occurred to me but once or twice. I'll own I noticed things that would make me think he was a detective or a man on the run for something."

"For a crime?"

"Yes, but then I used to say to myself again 'twas dreaming I was against the man.'"

"You got to be friends with him?"

"Very soon. There were not a great many on board, and he and I soon found we had much in common. I believe there were only four or five on board that were Irish, and except a few times he would get moody and black-like, and when he was in a dispute with anyone, he was agreeable, and he would make up to anyone; in fact, he would force his company on you. He forced himself on me, and I got somehow to feel for the family. They seemed poor, and I liked the children."

"Did you not talk on politics?"

"We did, or rather he did. I am not a politician, and don't mix much in them things, even when maybe I ought. If you write home you can find that the day of the Land League meeting, or some meeting while I was at home, I did not look at the brother's gun and went out fowling on the mountain. I think the police could tell that, for I suppose on account of me being an Irish-American they seemed to be watching me having the gun."

"Then Carey sometimes talked politics?"

"Whenever he did he used to be cursing and damning the English. In fact, he used to get into rows over it."

"Didn't you ever talk of the Carey affair in Dublin?"

"There was twice we mentioned about the Phoenix park business, but somehow we got away from it. To tell you the truth, he would give you to think he was on the run for some of those murders in Ireland. I would say he was a man who would take a life as soon as he would shoot a rat."

"Well, you heard the evidence given by some of the witnesses, while you were quietly sitting down you shot Carey in their presence, and said you were sent to do it?"

O'Donnell (very angrily): "But you don't mean to tell me anyone believes that? My God, mustn't they all know that if I was sent to do harm to him, he would have been hurt to him, I had a hundred good chances on the voyage out, and any of them can tell you that. Many a dark and stormy night we used to be alone, smoking and chatting in nooks and corners, and I don't think how he came to shoot me. It was a terrible rough passage out to the Cape, and if any one that was after Carey was on board, God help us, he could have been shot and pitched overboard twenty times many of those nights without anyone seeing it. Why, I'll tell you what, the very night (Saturday) we sailed from Cape Town it was a bad night, stormy and dark, and Carey stood with me in the second class cabin, as they call it. When he started to go off to the steerage for the night he said he was afraid to go alone, because he thought he might be washed overboard, and asked me to go along with him, which I did."

O'Donnell says that long before he knew that Powers was Carey he had come to be his "chum," and had been persuaded by him to go along to Natal with him. When he heard that it was Carey he said, "He'd rather have been under the water than to be shot. I don't shoot Carey because he had come to be my chum, but because he had come to be my enemy. He was terribly disgusted, he said, at the thought that he had been 'chumming' with 'the greatest monster on earth,' and then he could hardly believe that the man so strong about religion and so fierce in cursing the English could be Carey. "Every two minutes that Sunday morning he changed between thinking Powers was and was not Carey. He tried to think how he could get away from him, after being so intimate, without a row. He knew that Carey was dangerous and violent and that he was armed. He rarely, and for a long time never, touched drink; but he took some wine with him that afternoon. He says he tried to avoid Carey that Sunday, but he followed him about and clung on to him. He made some excuse to shake him off on deck, and was going below when Carey told him to order some ale for him and to call him down when it was ready. Carey came down soon after, and in good humor, and asked for his ale and sat down to drink it. As they sat at the table Carey, decidedly excited with liquor or else some very nervous, noticed O'Donnell's manner to be strange, and seemed suddenly to suspect something."

"What did you do with your pistol—have you got it said Carey?"

"I sold it at the Cape," replied O'Donnell, evasively. "Why do you ask?"

"Because, I can tell you, it might have got you into trouble. You alarmed people when you fired at the 'gang fish.'"

"It alarmed one who had not cause to fear in his heart," replied O'Donnell.

Carey started as if stung, and went off, returning in a while. After standing a moment moodily he suddenly taxed O'Donnell, in a challenging tone, with his changed manner. O'Donnell most earnestly asserts that at this instant, "as far as he ever was afraid of any man, which was not much," he realized he was in the grip of a bully and a murderer, who would fasten a quarrel on him if he found out he was discovered. Carey, on the other hand, according to O'Donnell's description, fulfilled the sentiment that "the thief doth fear each such an officer," that appeared in him. He expected that any Irishman who found him was surely sent to kill him. Scarcely had O'Donnell uttered the bitter observation as to the rumor about "Carey" (which, if the man was Power, could not offend him), than "in the clapping of your hands," or, he says, "while you would be marking M," the two men were on their feet, and in zips, each with their pistol in hand. O'Donnell, with impressive earnestness, says that the whole thing was so instantaneous that he hardly did anything but mechanically till all was over.

"Both of us, no doubt," he says, "we were somehow in a state to go off at half cock. I distinctly recollect," says O'Donnell, "I gave a glance to see if it was a pistol or a knife, or what thing he drew, but it was a revolver. When I whipped out mine with my right hand, my left hand gripped in his collar. Being paralyzed, I found my grasp on his zone, and that with his greater strength in two seconds I was beat, as he was crushing me down against the end of the table. Seeing him put his pistol to my face, I made a grab at it and fired. My belief is, though I am mistaken, that at the moment I snatched or dashed the pistol out of his hand as I fired, or it may be it fell from him, but it went on to the floor six feet away. He rushed, partly stooping, as if to pick it up, and I fired again, not so deliberately, but for my life. I really thought I fired but the one shot."

"Do you mean to say Carey fired at you?"

"I always thought he did not till I heard his revolver was found with an empty chamber. Even still I don't know how about that. I certainly felt no shot, and once I saw he was up to shooting I was not going to be last if I could help it."

"Was your dispute with him loud?"

"No, only we were looking black into one another's eyes."

Again referring to young Carey's testimony he said: "Surely they all don't take me for a madman, do they? That young fellow told in court, that before then all I put to a pistol to his other standing over me, who could double me up in a jiffy, and without rhyme or reason began firing at him. I don't believe any juryman will listen to that if I get fair law. I tell you I never touched a pistol till I saw my life in danger from a villain that had taken many a life before."

"Did Mrs. Carey come up to you?"

"She did, and I was sorry for her, and I tell you I was sorry for the children. I took her hand and said, 'Mrs. Carey I had to do it in self-defense. I didn't do it otherwise.' Then I quietly gave up of my own accord my revolver to the officer, and held out my hands to be ironed."

"Mrs. Carey says you told her you were sent to do it?"

"Likely she or her husband would say any one was sent to do it, but I never said anything of the kind. I couldn't say it. All the other witnesses, every one of them, says she swears false in this thing about what I said."

## THE HEALTH OF THE ARMY.

The Surgeon General's Annual Report—Increase of Work in the Office—Increase in the Sick List—White and Colored Troops.

The report of the surgeon general of the army, prepared by the late Surgeon General Crane, states that the disbursements on account of the medical and hospital department for the year were \$158,477, leaving a balance of \$44,823, the greater part of which has been expended since the close of the fiscal year. The disbursements on account of Artificial Limbs were \$93,670, leaving a balance of \$26,330; on account of appliances for disabled soldiers \$221, leaving a balance of \$1,779; on account of medical and surgical history \$509, leaving a balance of \$8,534, and on account of museum and library \$7,905, leaving a balance of \$2,095. The sum of \$2,095 was expended in furnishing trusses.

The report says it is desirable that the issue of trusses to the medical department of the army, and the issue of artificial limbs, was probably the intention of congress; that is, that a truss shall be furnished to everyone who was ruptured while serving in the army or navy in the line of his duty. An estimate of \$250,000 is made for medical and hospital supplies for the current fiscal year. It is suggested that the proceeds of sales of medical supplies to civilian employees should, if possible, be carried to the current appropriation for the medical department of the army, and the issue of trusses for replacing the articles sold, instead of being covered into the treasury, as at present.

In a chapter on the health of the army during the fiscal year, the report says: "Among the white troops the total number of cases of all kinds, taken on the sick list, 1,002 of mean strength, an increase of 123 cases per 1,000 over the number reported for the previous year, and 68 per 1,000 over the average decennial rate of admissions. The total number of deaths from all causes reported among the white troops was 214, or 10 per 1,000 of mean strength."

Among the colored troops the total number of cases of all kinds reported was 4,689, or 1,962 per thousand of mean strength, an increase of 182 per thousand over the rate reported for the previous year, and 130 per thousand over that for the decade preceding. The total number of deaths of colored soldiers reported from all causes was 26, or 11 per thousand of mean strength."

The total number of cases reported among the Indian soldiers was 44, being at the rate of 212 per thousand of mean strength, and the total number of deaths was two.

Diseases of the respiratory organs stand first in numerical importance, of which about 1,000 cases are reported, and the upper passages. Extremes of variation in temperature will account in part for the frequency of these diseases, but to a large extent insufficient ventilation of barracks and dormitories, and irregular and unequal distribution of artificial heat during cold weather must be held responsible.

Wounds, injuries, and accidents stand second on the list of causes impairing the effectiveness of the army. The large number recorded in this class may probably be attributed to the use of troops in mechanical and laborious employments, which form so large a proportion of the soldiers' duties. As an indication of the peculiar hardships to which our troops are exposed, the rates of admission for wounds, accidents, and injuries are 122 per thousand higher than those reported for the German army, and 142 per thousand higher than the decennial rate of the British army. It is interesting to note that the colored troops make a particularly favorable showing in the small number of admissions for alcoholism and its results, exhibiting, as they do, a rate of only 4 per 1,000 to a rate of 76 per 1,000 in the white troops.

The other hand, in diseases of the nervous system, they have an unexplained preponderance.

The report makes a gratifying exhibit of the work performed in the record and pension division during the fiscal year, from which it appears that the total number of official demands upon that division during the fiscal year, for information as to the cause of death in the case of deceased soldiers and the hospital record of invalids, was 119,550, being 57,500 in excess of similar applications during the previous year, and an increase of 89,575 cases over the yearly average of demands for the decade preceding.

In addition to this large number there remained unanswered on the third of June, 1882, 2,195 applications, making in all 141,539 cases to be disposed of within as short a period of time as practicable. It is estimated that, should the demands upon this division not exceed the average number of receipts of the latter part of the fiscal year, the accumulated surplus of cases now on hand will be disposed of within the period contemplated by the framers of the act of Aug. 5, 1870.

There are now nine medical officers on sick leave of absence. Of these three have been found incapacitated for active service and recommended for retirement by army retiring board, viz: Assistant Surgeon T. F. Aspell, who has been on sick leave since April 7, 1877; J. W. Buell, who has been on sick leave since Aug. 23, 1877, and W. R. Steinmetz, who has been on sick leave since Sept. 16, 1878; one has been recommended to be brought before an army retiring board with a view to his retirement from active service, viz: Assistant Surgeon J. V. De Hanne, who has been on sick leave since June 1, 1879, and three more are regarded as permanently disabled. Four medical officers are on ordinary leaves of absence after a tour of duty on the frontier, leaving one hundred and sixty-two medical officers for duty Oct. 1.

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## SHIPPING NEWS.

Arrival and Departure of Vessels at the River Front.

AT GEORGETOWN.

Arrived: Schooners S. M. Thomas, Kelly, from Wood's Holl; Gracie Chambers, Lane, from New York; R. Bowers, Thompson, from Norfolk.

CANAL MATTERS.

Since last report forty-five boats have arrived by canal, and the following list this place: G. A. McIlhenny, Antares, Kittie, William E. Bell, Hollander, Willie and Walter, M. B. Mayfield, John Spencer, W. Gader, R. A. Farmer, J. H. Farron, W. T. Hassett, Charles Echo, Pinkie and Johnnie, A. Greenless, George A. Hoffman, C. Clifton, Mattie, C. W. Adams, Daniel Kinkins, Harry Wagner, U. John Leetch, G. L. Sheriff, M. C. Waters, Samuel Lloyd, Percy, Theodore Deane, Elizabeth Miller, H. Arcturus, G. S. Reiman, F. F. McArde, Potomac, Susquehanna, Unexpect, J. P. Moore, Harry and Ralph, of the army. The large number recorded in this class may probably be attributed to the use of troops in mechanical and laborious employments, which form so large a proportion of the soldiers' duties. As an indication of the peculiar hardships to which our troops are exposed, the rates of admission for wounds, accidents, and injuries are 122 per thousand higher than those reported for the German army, and 142 per thousand higher than the decennial rate of the British army. It is interesting to note that the colored troops make a particularly favorable showing in the small number of admissions for alcoholism and its results, exhibiting, as they do, a rate of only 4 per 1,000 to a rate of 76 per 1,000 in the white troops.

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